with monuments and consistent with archaeological principles, facilities like drinking water and toilets are provided at selected monuments.

[English]

Curtailment of Air India Flights

808. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India have curtailed its flights to Europe and other destinations this year in order to spare aircraft for Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the number of flights curtailed and diverted from their scheduled separately;

(c) whether tour operators from Europe had protested against the schedule modifications made by Air India;

(d) if so, whether Air India staff in Paris has cautioned that due to curtailment of flight frequencies *via* Paris the image of India has been tarnished; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure the minimum curtailment of flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period from March to May, 1997, 35 flights to Toronto and 36 flights to Europe were curtailed. Besides, 22 flights were downgraded from B747-200 to A310 on Hong Kong/Osaka route.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, Air India gave all possible help to the groups already booked by re-routing/ booking passengers on subsequent flights/transferring them to other carriers.

(e) Government has issued instructions to Air India to ensure that no cancellation of scheduled flights or withdrawal of capacity from routes/sectors is resorted to unless there are compelling operational/technical reasons for doing so. Even in such circumstances, the airline should keep the general public informed well in advance.

Shipment of Minerals from Kandla Port

809. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that Bentonite Salt, Bauxite and other basic minerals are being produced in Kutch region of Gujarat;

(b) whether these minerals are being exported to foreign countries for the last 25 years for earning foreign exchange;

(c) whether the exporters find it difficult for shipment from the Kandla Port and have to incure heavy loss because of the handling and weather conditions etc;

(d) whether there has been a consistent demand to the Kandla Port Authority for providing a berth exclusively for use of shipment of these minerals from that port; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Although the traders have demanded to provide one berth exclusively for the Shipment of these minerals, keeping in view the available infrastructure facilities, it is not possible to provide one berth exclusively for export of these minerals as the demand from other export commodities is of a much larger extent.

Minority Status to Central Universities

810. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's policy on grant of 'Minority' status to Central Universities;

(b) whether there is any Central universities in the country which have been granted 'minority' status and if so, the names of such universities;

(c) whether there has been an agitation at the Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi and if so, the demand of the agitationists;

(d) whether the demands have also been supported by the National Commission on Minorities and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have examined their demand and if so, the Government's stand thereon; and

(f) the steps being taken to restore peace on the campus and to restart the examinations in the Jamia Millia Islamia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (f) There was an agitation in Jamia Millia Islamia following a judgement of Delhi High Court striking down certain reservations in Admissions. The demands raised was to bring about certain amendments in Jamia Millia Islamia Act to emphasize its distinctive historical character. The National Commission on Minorities has also endorsed these demands. As the questions relating to grant of minority status to educational institutions, including Universities, are currently *sub judice* before an 11 Judge Bench of the Supreme Court, a decision on these issues by the Government would not be possible at this stage.

The Jamia Millia Islamia University authorities have already filed an appeal against the orders; they are also in the process of evolving an interim admission policy catering to particular interests of the Jamia Community within the framework of the orders of the Court. Normalcy has now been restored on the campus; examinations and other academic activities are proceeding smoothly.

Corruption in Cricket Game

811. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent press reports regarding corruption in the game of cricket and other sports by fixing international matches;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government with regard thereto; and

(c) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has viewed the matter with concern and the Board of Control for Cricket in India has instituted an independent one-man Committee under Hon'ble Justice Shri Y.V. Chandrachud, former Chief Justice of India to enquire into the allegations of betting and match fixing in Cricket.

Inefficient Functioning of Army

812. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Army functioning inefficient" appearing in the 'Statesman' dated June 28, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the performance of the Army Headquarters has become inefficient during the past few years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the functioning of the Army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) One isolated incident in a private picnic party where this mishap occurred cannot be the basis to allege inefficiency in the Army. The Court of Inquiry into the incident by the HQ. Eastern Air Command has held that "No person or organisation be blamed for the accident."

[Translation[]

Assistance of Private Companies for Tourism

813. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to take assistance of private companies in order to promote tourism is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism through its field/ overseas offices promotes tourism product with the assistance of travel trade, advertising agencies and public relations agencies depending upon the need of the market.

[English]

Petrochemical Complex

814. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: